

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 AGR-10 /108 W

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R 030258Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0687

AMCONSUL MEDAN

UNCLAS SURABAYA 0639

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ECON, PINS, ID

SUBJECT: EAST JAVA RICE PRODUCTION

REF: SURABAYA 0272

1. REFTTEL RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT SIZE OF EAST JAVA'S 1974-75 RICE CROP BECAUSE OF NATURAL DISASTERS: FLOODING AND PESTS. IN LATE APRIL 1975, SOME REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE PREDICTING A PRODUCTION SHORTFALL OF 35 PERCENT AND BULOG HAD REDUCED THE RICE COLLECTION TARGET IN EAST JAVA BY THE SAME AMOUNT.

2. EAST JAVA IS INDONESIA'S MOST IMPORTANT RICE GROWING AREA, AND A SHORTFALL OF THIS MAGNITUDE COULD HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE IMPACT NATIONWIDE. HOWEVER, EAST JAVA GOVERNOR NOER CONFIDENTLY TOLD ME IN MAY 1975 THAT THE EFFECT OF THE FLOODS AND WERENG BEETLE INFESTATION ON RICE PRODUCTION WOULD BE MINIMAL.

3. THE GOVERNOR HAS BEEN PROVED RIGHT: DISASTERS APPARENTLY HAD ONLY SMALL IMPACT ON RICE PRODUCTION.

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EAST JAVA AGRICULTURAL SERVICE OFFICIALS TELL US THAT

THE PROVINCE'S RICE PRODUCTION FELL ONLY 2 PERCENT SHORT OF ESTIMATES MADE LAST YEAR BEFORE THE PLANTING SEASON, AND THAT RICE OUTPUT FOR THE 1974-75 SEASON EXCEEDED THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE CEILING PRICE FOR MEDIUM QUALITY RICE HAS BEEN SET AT RP. 120, AND EAST JAVA DOLOG HAS FIGURES INDICATING THAT RICE PRICES ARE HOVERING AROUND RP. 110 IN MANY AREAS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE DURING THE PRE-LEBARAN SEASON. DOLOG WAREHOUSES ARE FILLED WITH RICE COLLECTED DURING THE CURRENT SEASON, AND ALMOST 86 TONS OF RICE ARE STILL ON HAND FROM LAST SEASON.

4. THE SUCCESS OF THE RICE HARVEST IN SPITE OF SEVERE HANDICAPS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS. OUTSIDE THE FLOOD AREAS, WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE VERY FAVORABLE. RAINFALL WAS MORE THAN ADEQUATE DURING THE WET SEASON AND THE SECOND DRY SEASON CROP WAS VERY GOOD, ESPECIALLY IN PREVIOUSLY FLOODED AREAS. THE AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ALSO CONTRIBUTED. PROVISION OF CREDITS, NEW SEED VARIETIES, AND FERTILIZERS TO FARMERS HAS APPARENTLY BEGUN TO PRODUCE RESULTS, INCLUDING KEEPING RICE LOSSES DOWN IN A POOR YEAR. AFTER A SHAKY START, DISTRIBUTION OF FREE INSECTICIDE TO FARMERS APPARENTLY BROUGHT THE WERENG UNDER CONTROL.

5. AN AREA NEAR BANYUWANGI WAS VERY HARD-HIT BY THE WERENG PEST, AND IT WILL BE TWO MORE SEASONS BEFORE RICE CAN BE PLANTED IN THIS AREA AGAIN. BANYUWANGI IS A VERY IMPORTANT RICE PRODUCING REGION, AND AGRICULTURE SERVICE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOSS OF RICE PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING THE PLANTING OF CORN, SOYBEANS, AND PEANUTS IN THE AFFECTED AREA.

6. ONLY A TWO PERCENT SHORTFALL IN EAST JAVA'S RICE PRODUCTION IS REMARKABLE CONSIDERING THE MAGNITUDE OF DISASTERS WHICH STRUCK THE PROVINCE THIS YEAR. BELIEVE THIS RECORD TESTIFIES TO OUTSTANDING JOB DONE BY LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN SUPPORT OF MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM IN A VITAL ECONOMIC SECTOR.

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## Message Attributes

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